

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 27 are pending. Claims 2 and 7 are cancelled. Claims 24 to 27 are new.

No claims are allowed, however, claims 2 to 4, 7 to 9 and 17 to 23 are objected to.

1. Claims 6 to 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The indefinite language noted in the claims by the examiner has been amended.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

2. Claims 1, 5 and 10 to 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Herbert (U.S. Patent No. 6,096,042).

Without agreeing or disagreeing as to the merits of Herbert, the applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include the subject matter of objected to claim 2. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is believed to be allowable over Herbert. Claims 5 and 10 to 12 are patentable as hinging from an allowable base claim.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

3. Claims 13 to 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herbert in view of Lewis (U.S. Patent No. 3,723,995).

Without agreeing or disagreeing as to the merits of the cited prior art patents, the applicants believe that these claims are patentable as hinging from an allowable base claim.

Reconsideration of this rejection is requested.

4. Claims 2 to 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In that respect, and as discussed in section 2 above, the subject matter of claim 2 has been amended into independent claim 1. In its amended form, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

5. Independent claim 6 has been amended to overcome the various rejections based on 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 6 has further been amended to include the subject matter of objected to claim 7. In that respect, the "locking sleeve" has been amended to be the "annular sleeve". It is the annular sleeve to which the handle 500 is affixed. Support for that can be found in various places in the specification including paragraph 0032 where it is taught that "[a]t the front 448, the capture mechanism 447 has a locking device 450 which includes an annular sleeve 482 onto which the handle 500 is affixed."

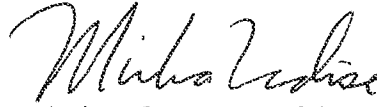
Accordingly, claim 6 is believed to be allowable. Claims 8, 9 and 17 to 23 are patentable as hinging from an allowable base claim.

6. Replacement drawing FIGs. 8, 9A, 9B and 10 accompany this amendment. Replacement FIG. 8 is provided to replace the drawing submitted in the originally filed application. Replacement FIG. 9A is provided to clean up the hand numbered numerical designations, for example "502C" present in the replacement drawing figure submitted with the amendment filed on March 9, 2009. Replacement FIGs. 9B and 10 are of a better clarity than the respective replacement drawings filed on March 9, 2009.

In all replacement drawings, no new matter has been added.

It is believed that claims 1, 3 to 6 and 8 to 27 are now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Scalise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being more prominent.

Michael F. Scalise
Reg. No. 34,920

Greatbatch, Inc.
10,000 Wehrle Drive
Clarence, New York 14031
716-759-5810
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